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Near East/South Asia Report

GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL:

THE FIRST 4 YEARS



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NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

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Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 25 May 85 pp 13-17

[Supplement to AL-RIYAD on the fourth anniversary of the establishment of the GCC, prepared by the Gulf Affairs Bureau of AL-RIYAD: "Four Years ... of Gulf Cooperation"]

[Text] "The reality is that we are approaching, God willing, a lasting and very serious task of service to our nations and our peoples. This situation, considering the number of periodic meetings of heads of state and ministers scheduled, and, of course, the nature and diversity of its programs, differs a great deal from the programs and goals of other organizations.

"The GCC is thus an international organization unlike other well-known organizations. It is an organization with its own specific and public goals and special status.

"At the same time, it should be known that this step ... is not the creation of a bloc or an axis directed against anyone. It is a step dedicated to the good of these nations and their peoples, to achieve their greatest possible progress and stability ... within the framework and charter of the Arab League.

"Thus it is natural and necessary as well that the GCC have an organizational framework encompassing its six member states in order to realize its task in a serious, scientific manner in continual pursuit of our excellent, shared goals."

From a speech by His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, commenting on the official announcement of the establishment of the GCC.

Over a period of 4 years, the unified Gulf task--as the GCC has portrayed itself--has set out, through achievements that have startled everyone and surpassed all expectations, to achieve firm establishment of an edifice of Gulf unity for the six states of the GCC (the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, the Sultanate of Oman and Qatar), by combining all aspects of the task into plans, programs and continued

activities toward the desired coordination and integration which have been established as the goals and starting point of the establishment of the GCC. Through them, it has advanced these goals and surpassed in work plans what was expected of it, especially considering the brief existence of the council. All areas of joint work have been included, from security and defense matters, to administrative, legal, social and cultural affairs, and the initial steps towards economic unity.

Today, 25 May 1985, the GCC ended its 4th year and entered its 5th year, continuing a new year of cooperation, building and working jointly to achieve the utmost and maximum realization of good for the region and its peoples.

What has the GCC achieved in the course of its 4 years? What is the result of the splendid Gulf journey?

The GCC

The GCC was established for the Arab states of the Gulf on 21 Rajab 1401/ 25 May 1981. On that day all the leaders from the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the Sultanate of Oman, Qatar and Kuwait settled on the basic organization of the GCC, to include the six states, in the first summit meeting convened for this purpose in Abu Dhabi, to announce the beginning of a course of cooperation and united work among their states.

The goals of the council focused on achieving coordination, integration and close ties among member states in all fields of activity in order to realize their unity, deepen and strengthen the contacts and ties, guide the existing cooperation among their peoples in various fields and to set up corresponding systems in various spheres and fields of activity.

The administrative apparatus of the GCC is composed of the supreme council, the ministerial council and the secretariat.

The Supreme Council

The supreme council is composed of the heads of state of the six states. It meets in a summit conference once a year in one of the member states. The supreme council has authority to consider issues of importance to the member states and to set high-level policies for the GCC, to set down basic guidelines and consider the recommendations, resolutions and joint projects presented to it by the ministerial council and the studies that the secretary-general has been directed to prepare.

It also authorizes the bases of cooperation with other states and international organizations, appoints the secretary-general, amends the basic structure of the GCC, establishes its bylaws and approves the budget of the secretariat.

The Ministerial Council

The ministerial council is comprised of the foreign ministers of the member states. It meets every 3 months in a regular session in one of the member

states. It has the authority to propose policies and to draw up recommendations and studies whose goal is to develop cooperation and coordination among the member states in various areas of endeavor, as well as to make resolutions and recommendations and work to encourage and develop existing activities among the states of the GCC. It also forwards resolutions to the supreme council, decides on the bylaws of the secretariat and appoints the assistant secretaries upon nomination by the secretary-general.

The Secretariat

The headquarters of the secretariat has been in the city of Riyadh since its establishment. The secretariat is composed of the secretary-general, assistant secretaries and the necessary employees. It includes a number of administrative sections and departments responsible for various sectors of work in areas of coordination and integration among the states of the council.

The secretariat has the authority to prepare studies related to the areas of cooperation, plans and integrated programs of the joint work of the states of the GCC, prepare periodic reports about the activities of the GCC and follow up implementation of the resolutions and recommendations of the supreme council and the ministerial council for the member states. It also prepares studies and reports that have been requested by the supreme council and the ministerial council and prepares the agenda of the ministerial council. It also drafts resolutions and proposes emergency meetings if necessary, and has other such administrative responsibilities or duties entrusted to it by either of the councils.

Political Coordination of the GCC and the Iraq-Iran War

The clear principle that emerged from the first summit conference, held in the city of Abu Dhabi on 21 Rajab 1401/25 May 1981, was that the security and stability of the region is the responsibility of its peoples and states and that the GCC represents the will and the right of these states to defend their security and stability and to preserve their independence. The monarchs, highnesses and leaders of the states of the council emphasized their absolute rejection of any foreign intervention in the region, no matter what its source, and confirmed the necessity for the entire region to be insulated from international conflicts and, particularly from the presence of naval fleets and foreign bases that are not in their interest and the interest of the world. These lines are the introductory lines set forth in the first declaration issued by the first meeting which included the leaders of the member states. The final declaration was a clear translation of the hopes and aspirations of the people of the gulf for movement forward commensurate with a realistic and well-considered plan, in a manner that assures achievement of what the citizens want.

When the GCC was founded, the Iraq-Iran war had been going on for nearly 9 months. The concern of the supreme council at its first meeting was directed towards a way of creating a satisfactory end to the bloodshed between the two Muslim neighbors, Iraq and Iran.

The final statement expressed the support of their majesties, highnesses and rulers for a liberal expenditure of effort to end the Iraq-Iran war, given that it was among the problems threatening the security of the region and increasing the possibilities of foreign intervention in the region. They emphasized the increased need for efforts to bring about a final settlement of the dispute.

As the GCC completes its 4th year and begins its 5th year, the supreme council will have met 5 times and the ministerial council 21 times, in 14 regular sessions and 7 emergency sessions. The Iraq-Iran war led the agenda of all of these sessions, which dedicated a sufficient amount of time to a discussion of a way to end the war and stop the excessive bloodshed between the two states. The states of the GCC worked with earnestness, self-sacrifice and incomparable sincerity. They did not despair of the tireless work nor avoid any significant openings to end it. The states of the GCC played a prominent role in the activities of all the general assembly sessions of the United Nations, as well as those of the regular and emergency sessions of the security council, and were behind the declarations issued by it and the appeals of the secretary-general of the United Nations. Also, they pursued diligently liaison with the Islamic Conference Organization and the non-aligned movement and worked energetically and actively during their meetings.

The efforts of the GCC states continued without interruption, collectively and individually, in generous efforts to stop the war and bring peace to the region.

Training of Diplomatic Personnel in the Member States

The GCC has taken an interest in all areas of concern to the residents of the region. It has not neglected treatment of any field. There is no field for which it has not shouldered responsibility for its advancement and reinforcement. In the present time and current circumstances, there is no doubt that one of the most important of these areas is the area of the diplomatic corps, particularly given the growth of its significance in our era and the complicated and sometimes hazardous problems surrounding diplomats. Given this, diplomats have had to familiarize themselves with a great many sciences that relate to their work and with methods and practices that facilitate their mission and move them toward the goals for which they strive.

The first diplomatic training course has been held for the education of the diplomatic personnel of the states of the GCC.

Coordination between the GCC and the United Nations

In the area of coordination between the GCC and the United Nations, UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar visited some of the states of the GCC, including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, Bahrain and Qatar.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia received the secretary-general on 20 March 1985, and met with His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz. His Majesty emphasized the kingdom's support of the UN efforts aimed at ending the armed conflict between Iraq and Iran by peaceful means, and its support for all of its resolutions to stop the fighting.

The secretary-general met with His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister, and conducted a review of the current situation in the Middle East. The secretary-general expressed his willingness to continue efforts to stop the conflict between Iraq and Iran.

On 2 April 1985, the secretary-general of the United Nations visited the Sultanate of Oman, during which he met with Omani officials and with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn Sa'id, who emphasized the support of the sultanate for the UN resolutions seeking to end the fighting between the neighbors of Iraq and Iran.

Also, His Excellency Yusuf 'Alawi Ibn 'Abdallah, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, received the secretary-general in a meeting that revolved around the circumstances in the Middle East, particularly the Iraq-Iran war and the international efforts being expended to end it, as well as the UN resolutions concerning the Iraq-Iran conflict.

During his visit to Oman, the secretary-general of the United Nations met with his excellency the secretary-general of the GCC, who, during their meeting, reviewed the Arab situation, developments in the Iraq-Iran war, issues that concern the states of the GCC and the United Nations, the efforts being expended by the states of the GCC to end the conflict between Iraq and Iran and the efforts being expended by the United Nations and its support for achievement of the desired goals.

On 4 April 1985, the secretary-general of the United Nations visited Bahrain and met with senior officials in the Bahrain government, including His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad Ibn Mubarak, the foreign minister of Bahrain. They reviewed the situation in the Middle East and the Iraq-Iran war and the efforts being exerted to end it.

The secretary-general of the United Nations arrived in Doha on a 2-day visit to Qatar on 5 April 1985. He held discussions with senior Qatar officials and met with His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani. An exchange of views took place during a discussion of current developments in the Middle East and in the gulf region, particularly the Iraq-Iran conflict and the efforts being exerted to reach a just and lasting settlement of it. His Highness Shaykh Khalifah expressed his satisfaction with the initiatives of De Cuellar and the efforts of the United Nations to put an end to the Iraq-Iran war, emphasizing the importance of the tireless efforts to end this tragic conflict, which constitutes a grave danger to the general secretary and stability of the gulf region and to the whole world. During his time in the region, de Cuellar also visited Tehran and Baghdad, offering his good offices to stop the war. He presented an eight-point plan in two stages.

In the first stage, the plan aims to do the following:

1. To immediately cease attacks on cities and use of chemical weapons.
2. To stop air attacks on vital means of transport and on tankers and ships traveling through the Gulf.

3. To guarantee freedom of navigation in the Gulf to all.
4. A comprehensive cease-fire on all fronts.

A second stage comes after this, with four other points of the plan, the most noteworthy of which is the determination of the extent of the war damage to the two countries and drawing up steps to begin negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations.

After his return to New York, de Cuellar announced that the mediation effort that he had undertaken between Iran and Iraq had not met with significant success, and that there was still a wide gulf between Iraq and Iran. He had not been able to find any way out of this war that has continued for four and one-half years. The secretary-general of the United Nations pledged to continue his efforts to narrow this gulf.

All of these endeavors by the states of the GCC in coordination with all of the agencies that are exerting efforts and offering good offices to reach a peaceful solution guarantee the rights of the two parties and restore peace and stability to the region.

In light of the dangerous developments that the region has witnessed due to escalation of the Iraq-Iran war, the president of Gambia, Dawda Jawa-rah, chairman of a good offices committee emanating from the Islamic Conference Organization, visited Syria on 30 March 1985, during which he met with Hafiz al-Asad, the president of Syria, and some Syrian officials. The committee proposed to the Syrian president a new working plan to stop the war between the two Muslim countries of Iraq and Iran to stop the bloodshed.

The Syrian president welcomed this initiative and emphasized his support of the effort that the organization is expending the revival of its role in mediation efforts between Iraq and Iran. The president of Gambia was accompanied by the secretary-general of the Islamic Conference Organization, Sharif-al-Din Pir Zadeh, with whom, immediately after his return from Damascus, his excellency the assistant secretary-general for political affairs /of the GCC/, Ibrahim Hamud al-Subhi, met in Jiddah. He assured him that the organization will continue its efforts with all parties to reach a peaceful solution to this war.

The GCC and the Yemen Arab Republic

The states of the GCC are linked to the YAR by firm distinctive ties based on good neighborliness, mutual respect and long and fruitful cooperation on all planes and levels of different areas.

The GCC has set out to affirm this fact and to develop and further it to achieve shared goals, hopes and expectations.

From this starting point, pursuant to an official invitation, his excellency the secretary-general of the GCC visited Sanaa on 9 May 1982. He met with Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president of the republic, and 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, the former prime minister. He explained to them the goals and

aspirations of the GCC. Also, the relations /of the GCC/ with the YAR were examined and their influence on the stability and security of the region and Arab relations were examined in a general way, as was the untiring effort of the GCC and the YAR to achieve Arab unity and solidarity.

His excellency the secretary-general presented a complete report on his visit to Sanaa which was discussed during the meetings of the fourth session of the ministerial council which met in the city of al-Ta'if on 20-21 Ramadan 1402/11-12 July 1982. The ministerial council emphasized that in the framework of concern for the states surrounding the GCC states, and in view of the YAR's notable status in the Arab international community, their highnesses and excellencies decided to create a three-member committee, composed of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the state of Kuwait and the Sultanate of Oman, in cooperation with the secretariat, to draw up a clear strategy to aid the YAR in its development plans and in determining the priority of implementation.

The committee held a number of meetings in the headquarters of the secretariat to develop a clear concept by which to raise the social and economic level and general development programs in the YAR. The committee, from this starting point, relied on carefully studied and specific political, economic, educational and cultural factors. It included the provision of required technical expertise and assistance in any area to achieve the goals for which the committee was formed.

In the third session of the supreme council, held in Bahrain on 23-25 Muharram 1402/9-11 November 1982, the council issued instructions to follow up this subject and to take the necessary steps to consolidate GCC-YAR relations. In light of developments and recent changes in the relations between the two sides, and following the earthquake which struck the YAR at the end of December 1982, the 3-member committee met at the general secretariat in Riyadh to discuss ways and means of sending immediate aid to the areas damaged by the earthquake in the governorate of Dhamar, which suffered a great deal of damage. The committee produced a clear picture of how to rebuild the ruined areas and how to send immediate relief aid. Immediately after this, a group of experts from the secretariat and from economic and financial institutions in the member states, under the supervision of the assistant secretary-general for political affairs, undertook to visit Sanaa in Sha'ban 1403/May 1983. The committee held meetings with Yemeni officials, during which they received reports and accounts of the damage sustained by stricken areas and of the government's plans to rebuild and meet the requirement of this stage.

The committee also made a field visit to the governorate of Dhamar. It inspected three locations in the earthquake area, namely, Dawran, al-Risabah and (Qa'wan). By means of its eyewitness inspections, its investigations and study of the reports presented to it and the supplementary reports that the committee received before it undertook the visit, the committee prepared a comprehensive report, including the costs of the project, estimated at \$188 million. This report was forwarded to the ministerial council for the adoption of appropriate measures. The states of the GCC also sent prompt and immediate aid within the framework of bilateral relations, corresponding to the rapidity and development of events. The member states undertook to send a

sum of money estimated at \$43 million in the form of a grant divided as follows: the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia contributed \$15 million, Kuwait \$10 million, the United Arab Emirates \$8 million, Qatar \$5 million and the Sultanate of Oman \$5 million. This was aid to help rebuild earthquake destruction. The states of the GCC entrusted supervision of the financing and administration of the rebuilding projects to their development funds and their financial establishments.

The funds were instructed to cover the rest of the costs of the projects, which amounted to \$145 million according to their regular procedures and valid financial regulations.

Accordingly, a number of meetings were held within the scope of the GCC secretariat among representatives of the development funds. These committees undertook a number of visits to Sanaa in order to hold discussions with Yemeni officials on how to benefit from the contributions of the member states. A committee from the Saudi Development Fund visited Sanaa on 27-30 Dhu al-Hijjah 1404 to consult on how to benefit from the contributions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Qatar. An agreement was concluded on allocation of the proceeds according to the following: establishment of 44 schools and 10 health care centers in areas in which no clinics were available, and establishment of 30 mosques and construction of 50 kilometers of rural road between (Dhukar) and Dabbah.

On 9 April 1984 a committee from the Kuwait Fund visited Sanaa and held discussions to reach an agreement on how to implement the Kuwaiti and Omani shares. Suitable contracts were chosen and were signed on 24 April 1984 to finance construction of 211 houses in the eighth and thirteenth districts in the governorate of Dhamar. Also, a committee from the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development visited Sanaa on 12 July 1984 and contracted to build 525 housing units in the area of (Tadminn) at a cost of \$9 million, which represents the share of the United Arab Emirates and \$1 million of contributions by citizens.

The GCC States and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen: An Agreement in Principle Between the Sultanate of Oman and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Out of a firm desire to strengthen the bilateral ties between the Sultanate of Oman and the PDRY, and a sincere brotherly desire to create natural relations between the two countries, to remove all obstacles impeding better and firmer relations, and an urgent need to establish good neighborly relations and cooperation between the two countries, the GCC commissioned their excellencies Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Kuwait, and Ra'id 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, minister of state for foreign affairs of the United Arab Emirates, to visit the PDRY in May, 1982 in a framework of efforts to strengthen ties of cooperation between Oman and the PDRY. This visit had positive results, since it led to the first meeting between representatives of the foreign ministry of Oman and the foreign ministry of the PDRY in Kuwait on 12-16 Ramadan 1402/3-7 July 1982.

At this meeting it was agreed to hold a meeting at the foreign ministerial level on 25 October 1982, to be preceded by a meeting of experts from the two countries scheduled for 23 October 1982. In actuality, the meeting was held in Kuwait on 6-10 Muharram 1403/23-27 October 1982. The participants in this meeting included a delegation from the PDRY, headed by his excellency Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, the foreign minister; a delegation from Oman, headed by his excellency Yusuf Ibn 'Alawi 'Abdallah, the minister of state for foreign affairs; a delegation from Kuwait, headed by his excellency Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and a delegation from the United Arab Emirates, headed by his excellency 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jawran, deputy foreign minister. The participants discussed all the items on the agenda in a spirit of complete frankness and responsibility and reached a clearly defined formula on the topics included. The meeting resulted in an agreement in principle between Oman and the PDRY, affirming the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries and the strengthening of bilateral relations, the opening of productive areas of cooperation, as well as a cessation of all media attacks, an agreement not to intervene in internal affairs, and mutual respect for national sovereignty as well as good neighborliness and the peaceful resolution of differences.

A technical committee was formed to draw up the border between the two countries. It held its first meeting in Abu Dhabi on 11 Rabi'a II 1403/25 June 1982 with the participation of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. A large number of relevant issues were discussed. The committee held its second meeting on 29 October 1982 in Kuwait, where the committee completed a study of some of the issues on the agenda.

The joint committee to draw up the borders between the two countries held its third meeting in Muscat, Oman, on 20 January 1985 with the participation of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. This meeting was the first between the two sides to be held in a capital city of either of the sides.

The committee resumed its work to wind up topics mentioned in the previous meetings.

In this meeting, an agreement was concluded to hold a fourth meeting of the committee in the PDRY at a time to be determined later. Moreover, an exchange of diplomatic representatives at the ambassadorial level was announced later and air travel between the two countries was initiated. The region regained its ambience and mutual respect characterized the atmosphere between the two countries, which strengthens security and stability in the region.

Aid for the PDRY

On assignment for the GCC a joint committee of member states, representing the development funds and the foreign ministries, made a visit to Aden on 24 Rajab 1403/7 March 1983 in order to examine development programs there. During its visit the committee met a large number of officials, headed by their excellencies the foreign minister and the minister of planning and senior government officials. The committee had the opportunity to examine

development plans and various government programs for improving and raising the efficiency of some important vital facilities. After the visit the committee prepared a detailed report on its recommendations on these matters. The committee judged that a development project for the port of Aden is of primary importance to the PDRY. On this basis, and for reasons included in the information given by the officials, the committee also established the importance of financing this project from the funds and financial establishments of the member states.

The committee forwarded its recommendations to the ministerial council for its decision. The council discussed these recommendations and reaffirmed the need for contributions, urging development funds in the member states to finance the development project of the port of Aden. In its fourth session, the supreme council examined and approved the arrangements for such contributions. Accordingly, the competent joint technical committees in the development funds defined the fund's role in financing and carrying out this task. According to the technical report prepared by the Kuwait Development Fund, the project will cost \$101 million. The states of the council will contribute the major part and the financial establishments will contribute the remainder, in addition to aid and loans offered by some GCC states within the scope of bilateral cooperation.

Military Cooperation

Following the Doha summit, during which the leaders of the GCC states established the principle of military coordination and cooperation, the historic "Ibha" meeting was held at the level of the foreign and defense ministers of the GCC states. It discussed the defense needs of the states of the GCC. After 4 days of meetings, it approved a document on joint defense policy, which was submitted to the Kuwait summit. It outlines a unified defense strategy starting from the principle of self-reliance in defending the security of the region and the safety of its states and in securing the stability of the gulf.

This decision on cooperation--established in this summit which was dubbed the self-reliance summit--was a great step forward, based on the principles and foundations of cooperation and coordination in this field that had been established on the basis of the abilities of the states in the region to defend themselves and to strengthen the gulf by integration and coordination among its armies.

The GCC armies held two large military exercises as part of the joint training of the six states. The first was held in the United Arab Emirates and the second in Hafr al-Batin in Saudi Arabia. These were the "Peninsula Shield" exercises. From time to time, bilateral exercises between two or more of the states of the GCC are conducted in one of the states to train the various sectors of the armed forces in modern methods of training and armament. These are steps forward on the road to integration and utmost unification of the military operations in order to achieve the greatest possible degree of security for the states of the GCC, individually and collectively.

The military officers emphasized the importance of the results of these exercises for the joint defense strategy for the GCC states.

The soldiers of the GCC armies, who carried out these exercises with great skill in using all the various types of weapons in accordance with various military plans which take into account all possible contingencies, thus reinforce the hopes of their leaders and their people for self-reliance as an effective shield to protect the security and stability of the region's six states, individually and collectively.

Security Cooperation

Great progress has been made in the field of security cooperation among the member states in the form of increased coordination and integration among the security apparatuses in the GCC states. Immediately after the third meeting of their highnesses and excellencies the ministers of the interior was held in Riyadh on 24-25 Safar 1404/28-29 November 1983, the political affairs division (security affairs department) focused its efforts on following up implementation of the resolutions issued by that meeting, which included the following:

1. Resolutions related to the recommendations of the special security committees, whose goals are to achieve increased cooperation and coordination in order to strengthen the pillars of security and stability in the GCC states so that the citizens in these states may enjoy peace and stability.
2. Standardization of the color, size and shape of the passports of the GCC states and of all data and background information contained in these passports. This required meetings of the ad-hoc and technical committees in order to implement the resolutions on this matter. The directors general for immigration and passports in the member states held their third meeting in Qatar on 21-22 Jumada I 1405/11-12 February 1985, in which they reviewed the studies and proposals presented by member states and international companies specializing in printing passports and emphasized the importance of meetings between passport officials and exchanges of visits among them.

Also, the secretariat was commissioned to publish instructional booklets on the regulations and procedures for entry into the states of the GCC for use by individuals and official agencies. The secretariat's security affairs department is now busy preparing these booklets for printing and distribution. It has been agreed to make final presentation of the standardized passport by the first of September, 1985, preparatory to presenting it to the ministers of the interior. It will take effect in 1987 when the unification of the procedural and technical aspects of the passport, as well as background information on the holder and other data, including color, will be completed. This is considered the first step toward standardizing some of the official travel documents carried by citizens.

3. Standardization of entry and exit cards of the member nations.

The member nations are currently undertaking a study of the technical aspects of the first computer. Also, the secretariat is undertaking preparation of a

study of sample entry and exit cards preparatory to implementing the resolution on standardization. This of course is tied to the computer system in each country.

4. Cancellation of residency requirements for citizens of GCC states. This is in conformity with the application of the unified economic agreement among the member states, the first two stages of which went into effect as of March 1983 and March 1984. The third stage will be implemented soon. It has now become possible to establish residency without a bond or guarantee as before.

5. In the area of identity cards, the secretariat undertook its assigned tasks of preparing a comparative study of the identity card and its relationship to passports as a preliminary step toward the standardization of procedures in this area. This matter will be studied in a more comprehensive manner so that this study may be of use.

6. Resolutions facilitating the travel and movement of GCC citizens in member states, the most important of which are:

6-1. GCC subjects with a valid driver's license issued by their own country can use them in any of the member states until they expire, at which time another license will be issued to them by the state in which they are residing.

6-2. Private cars and private rental cars belonging to public rental companies in the member states may be used by the citizens of the GCC states for travel between member states.

6-3. Trucks can travel between member states in accordance with the stipulations of the economic agreement.

6-4. Taxis used by GCC subjects can operate between member states from pre-designated areas. However, these taxis are not allowed to operate within these states.

6-5. Establishment of a "traffic week" to be held once a year in the GCC, during which all of the government and private agencies and establishments will participate in exchanging information and statistical books and informational and instructional posters.

In addition, seminars and lectures are to be held on traffic safety and awareness. Each week would have a theme. The theme for the first traffic week in the GCC, in 1404/1985 was "the pedestrian," a subject on which seminars and lectures and the media were held. The week began with an exchange of officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers, among the member states to share their efforts and expertise in the organization and training for this week to strengthen cooperation and achieve an increase in expertise and practical application.

The directors general of traffic in the GCC states held their third meeting in Kuwait on 26-27 Rabi'a I 1405/18-19 December 1984. Among the most important recommendations adopted were:

6-5-a. The setting up of a traffic safety and awareness contest to be arranged by a team of traffic experts and organized by the secretariat in cooperation with the traffic administrations and media in the member states. The state which is the current head of the supreme council is responsible for screening entries and for presenting prizes to the winners at the GCC level. Such a contest has been simultaneously offered this year through the member states' mass media on the occasion of the beginning of "Traffic Week." The General Administration of traffic in Kuwait has taken upon itself the task of receiving and screening entries and presenting prizes to the winners.

The secretariat is also participating in offering consolation prizes to winners. Furthermore, it offered letters of thanks and appreciation to the lecturers who proffered their expertise and experience to traffic week.

6-5-b. Organization of lectures on "traffic safety" in member states. The secretariat has undertaken in this year's GCC traffic week to contact people with outstanding qualifications in the state of the GCC to present lectures in member states. It did this in coordination and cooperation with the public traffic administrations and the media in the member states. This took place at an outstanding level of cooperation and coordination among the member states.

6-5-c. Standardized specifications for vehicles. The participants recommended acceptance of the specifications prepared by the bureau of specifications and standards in the GCC states. These specifications focus on the importance of safety features in the vehicles imported to the GCC states and stress to the manufacturers and importers their importance in guaranteeing the safety of passengers and road users and in contributing to the efficiency and quality of the vehicles.

6-5-d. Agreement was reached on publication of a unified traffic information manual which the secretariat is preparing after collecting materials for it from the member states. Its goals are: to inform all citizens of the GCC states of some of the rules and laws related to traffic matters in all member states on behalf of the traffic administration; to provide all citizens with addresses and phone numbers of all traffic administration in the member states; and utilization of other material to be contained in this manual.

7. A center for security information.

The secretariat has undertaken preparation of the final studies for establishing a center for security information for the GCC states to be submitted to their highnesses and excellencies the ministers of the interior of the GCC states in their next meeting for approval and commencement of implementation, God willing. This is bound to facilitate collection and exchange of security information among the member states, in an effort to save time and energy and to make profitable use of scientific progress.

8. The secretariat studied the means of direct communications through state-of-the-art communications equipment between the secretariat and the member states themselves. This equipment has been supplied and is in use in communications operations. This system is known as "facsimile."

9. The secretariat is currently undertaking preparations for the fourth meeting of the ministers of the interior of the GCC states.

10. Friendly visits have been exchanged between a number of ministers of the interior of GCC states in the services of security cooperation.

Economic Integration

Planning: "A document of goals and policies for the development plans of the states of the GCC."

The third meeting of the social and economic planning committee, composed of the planning ministers in the member states, met on Wednesday, 14 Safar 1405/7 November 1984 at the headquarters of the secretariat in Riyadh.

In this meeting, the committee agreed to adopt a document of goals and policies for the development plans of the GCC states which had been prepared previously by a committee of planning experts emanating from the social and economic planning committee, following a study of the strategic development and integration plan crystallized through a seminar to which the secretariat had invited an elite group of intellectuals and experts from the GCC.

The document was submitted to the ministerial council in its thirteenth session, and the supreme council, in its fifth session, recommended that it be empowered with the task of approving the document after its study by member states.

The supreme council, in its fifth session, authorized the ministerial council to review the document in its next regular session.

In its fourteenth session, held in the headquarters of the secretariat in Riyadh on 26-28 Jumada II 1405/17-19 March 1985 the ministerial council approved the document of the "goals and policies for the development plans for the states of the GCC." (Appendix number 1)

Agriculture and Water

The secretariat has begun to implement some of the projects included in the programs recommended for the joint agricultural policy for the GCC states after they were approved by their excellencies the ministers of agriculture and water in the GCC states. The most important of these projects is the enactment of unified legislation of regulations and laws and the establishment of some joint projects, including the survey and classification of some of the joint natural resources and means to preserve and use them in ideal ways.

--The establishment of a GCC joint stock company will be announced soon by the private sector, intended to produce pure breeding stock for poultry, following the stockholder meeting in the secretariat headquarters to discuss the matters necessary for its establishment.

--Application of the principle of group purchasing of veterinary medicines for all of the states of the GCC will begin shortly with the purchase of four vaccines as the first stage. Then the procedure will be broadened, after this principle has been affirmed by the committee formed for this.

--Unified regulations have been established for fertilizers and pesticides for the registration and sale of veterinary medicines and for the use and protection of sources of water and fresh water supplies by the special technical committees to be submitted to the ministers of agriculture for their approval.

--The secretariat is now undertaking, in cooperation with one of the qualified agencies, the preparation of two studies, one for a laboratory to classify viral diseases and another for a laboratory to produce vaccines, which are of great importance to the preservation and development of the livestock resources of the GCC states.

-- The establishment of a joint stock company by the private sector in the GCC states for production and marketing of seeds will be announced soon. This is meant to protect farmers in the GCC states from fraudulent and deceptive practices, and is of great significance to food security and good quality of the major agricultural products.

--The study to update detailed hydrological maps of the joint al-Damam water table has made good headway.

This study is of great importance, given the scarcity of water in the GCC states, and the need to make the best possible use of the available water.

Industry

Pursuant to resolutions of the committee on industrial cooperation in its first three meetings concerning the issue of a strategic industrial development plan for the GCC states, the secretariat was commissioned to invite a team of experts in the field of industry to prepare a strategic industrial development plan for the GCC states. To prepare this plan, the secretariat organized a conference held in Sha'ban 1404/May 1984 in Bahrain, in compliance with the instructions of the committee on social and economic planning, and utilized the main conclusions reached by this conference which set out the main features of the strategic industrial development plan for the GCC states. After a number of comments and suggestions were made to the secretariat on this issue, it drew up a draft plan for this strategy. It convened a technical committee of experts from the GCC states which met and discussed the strategic industrial development plan for the GCC states, which will be presented at the next meeting of the committee on industrial cooperation for its approval.

Pursuant to the resolution adopted by the fifth session of the supreme council, and the decision to commission the secretariat to study the possibility of creating new joint projects and ways to encourage citizens to participate in them, and likewise the resolution of the committee on industrial cooperation in its third meeting held in Riyadh on 9-10 Rabi'a I 1404/13-14 December 1983 to commission the secretariat to form a team of experts from the ministries of industry of the member states to determine the bases on which industrial projects will be determined and coordination in their establishment in the member states, the secretariat, in cooperation with an expert from the United Nations, undertook preparation of a sketch for the basis of distributing the joint projects among the GCC states. Moreover, the secretariat is currently undertaking to establish contacts with the IMF (which is associated with the World Bank) to cooperate with it in preparation of a more comprehensive study of possible joint projects in the GCC states.

The supreme council, in its fifth session, decided to commission the secretariat to complete studies for the provision of customs protection for products of the GCC states for which there is great competition with regard to price, quality and delivery. The committee on industrial cooperation, in its third meeting held in Riyadh on 9-10 Rabi'a I 1404, 13-14 December 1983, commissioned the secretariat to hold a joint meeting of representatives from the ministries of industry and finance in the GCC states, as had previously been decided in paragraph number 4 of the report of the committee's first meeting, to examine protecting the basic industrial products of the GCC states. Pursuant to this, the secretariat undertook to prepare a study of concrete, iron and steel. A joint working group will be formed to discuss it, so as to facilitate its presentation to the upcoming meeting of the committee on industrial cooperation and the meeting of the committee on economic and financial cooperation.

The secretariat undertook to invite a committee of experts from GCC states to discuss the results of the study of incentives offered to encourage progress in the private sector in the GCC states preparatory to presenting it to the next meeting of the committee on economic and financial cooperation. This is in compliance with the decision of the supreme council in its fifth session that the secretariat undertake to complete a study on incentives for the productive sectors.

In its fifth session, in Kuwait in November, 1984, the supreme council decided to "give priority to national products of the member states in government projects, taking into account the abundance of competition with regard to price, quality and delivery."

The state of Bahrain has agreed to give priority to the national products of GCC states in government projects. Moreover, the secretariat is currently contacting the relevant agencies in the member states to urge them to take steps to carry out the above-mentioned supreme council resolution. It is worth mentioning that the issue of implementation of the supreme council resolution on giving priority to national products of GCC states in government projects will be discussed at the next meeting of the committee on economic and financial cooperation, which includes the ministers of finance and national economy, to be held at the end of Sha'ban 1405/mid-May 1985.

Out of a desire to support and encourage industrial products of GCC states, the committee on industrial cooperation (in its third meeting held in December 1983) and the committee on economic and financial cooperation (in its seventh meeting held in May 1984) were commissioned to hold a joint meeting for representatives of the development funds of the GCC states and marketing officials from the basic industrial companies in order to examine the possibility of using some of the industrial products of the GCC states in programs of the funds and of avoiding financing competing projects in GCC states. This joint meeting was held in January 1985, and its recommendations will be discussed at the next meeting of the committee on industrial cooperation.

Believing in the importance of strengthening relations with Arab and international organizations and bodies in various areas of mutual interest, and in implementation of the resolution of their excellencies the ministers of industry in the GCC states at their third meeting, the secretariat is initiating contacts with the Arab Organization for Industrial Development in order to establish an ongoing relationship between the two agencies. The Arab Organization issued an invitation to a delegation from the secretariat to visit in order to discuss the best areas and suitable means by which to realize continuing cooperation and coordination between the two sides. During this visit a mutual memorandum of understanding was signed which includes a number of areas in which to achieve the desires of the two agencies to establish a firm ground between them.

Industrial Studies

In implementation of article 2 of the 12th paragraph of the unified economic agreement of the GCC states, which deals with unification of the industrial laws and regulations of the GCC states, and in implementation of the resolution adopted at the third meeting of the ministers of industry of GCC states held in December, the secretariat, in cooperation with the Gulf organization for Industrial guidance, was commissioned to draw up models for unified industrial legislation for the GCC states. It is hoped that preparation of a draft will be finished by the end of Ramadan 1405/June 1985. The goals of this industrial legislation are based on the results of some of the industrial studies prepared by the secretariat in cooperation with the gulf organization, such as the study of industrial laws and regulations in the GCC states and the study of industrial regulations and incentives in the member states and other states and groups.

The ministers of industry, in their second meeting held in Muharram 1403/October 1982, decided to commission the secretariat to do a study of the economic benefits of establishing an industry to provide spare parts for factories and other industries with established economic value, such as oil refineries and concrete, iron, steel, aluminum and petrochemical factories. This study was completed in cooperation with an international consulting firm, and its results were submitted to the special technical committees. Consequently the secretariat was to prepare detailed studies of the economic benefits of manufacturing spare parts, as recommended by the study, as well as a study of the economic benefits of the proposed services programs which the plan assigns to the industrial sector. Furthermore, the secretariat is currently contacting

a number of specialized local and international consulting firms to elicit their proposals on these studies.

The committee on industrial cooperation (the ministers of industry in the GCC states) in its first and second meetings commissioned the secretariat to conduct a comprehensive study of policies related to developing the manpower necessary for industry, methods to maximal utilization of already extant training centers, the possibility of establishing highly specialized centers to train industrial workers, and ways to distribute these centers throughout the GCC states. In implementing this, the secretariat, in cooperation with King Sa'ud University in Riyadh, is preparing a study which is expected to be completed in Ramadam 1405/June 1985. It is worth mentioning that the study of the industrial work force will include the petroleum, electricity and water desalinization industries.

Electricity and Water

Water and electricity tariffs:

In implementation of the resolution of the supreme council in its fourth session to unify prices and fees for water and electricity services, and the resolution of the supreme council in its fifth session to revise the tariffs that had been agreed upon in the first meeting of the ministers of electricity and water in Qatar on 30-31 October 1984, the secretariat undertook to form a steering committee on water and electricity consumption. During the fifth meeting of the committee, held in Bahrain on 19-20 February 1985, agreement was reached on a specific formula for electricity and water tariffs, which was submitted to the second meeting of the ministers of electricity and water in Kuwait on 22 April 1985. After study by their excellencies the ministers of electricity and water of the minutes of steering committee meetings and the recommendations of the representatives of the ministers of electricity and water, it was decided to set tariffs for regular consumption of electricity and for agricultural and industrial consumption and a special tariff for water (Appendix number 2), and to draw up a special schedule unifying fees for connection of electricity and water to consumers (Appendix number 3).

A study of electrification:

The secretariat undertook to disseminate elements of a study on the connection of electricity to the member states. It called together a working group which met in Kuwait on 9-10 February 1985, during which the first report on the progress of the study, submitted by the University of Petroleum and Mines--the advisory agency--was discussed, as was the creation of solutions to some of the difficulties confronting the experts who are preparing the study. It is worth mentioning that the study will be completed by 1 Jumada II 1406.

A study of training in the areas of electricity and water:

Pursuant to a recommendation of the ministers of electricity and water in their first meeting in Qatar on 30-31 October 1984, and the decision that the study include the work force in the water sector, the secretariat established

contact with the council on the labor force in Saudi Arabia to inform them of the recommendation of their excellencies the ministers. They agreed gratefully that the study should include the area of water. Questionnaires related to this were distributed to the member states and questionnaires related to the electricity sector were collected. The study will be completed by the end of Safar 1406.

Standardization of methods of operation and maintenance:

Acting on a recommendation by the ministers of electricity and water in their first meeting that the committee on standardization of methods of operation and maintenance continue its work and present its conclusions at the next meeting, [The committee] collected actual data for a study on the standardization of the organizational structure of all electrical power stations and water desalinization stations preparatory to standardization of methods of operation and maintenance. Furthermore, a draft of a telephone directory for the electrical and water sectors in the states of the GCC was completed.

Consumer Awareness

Acting on a recommendation of the ministers of electricity and water in their first meeting concerning consumer awareness, the secretariat completed drawing up a plan to raise consumer awareness and begin to draw up the steps necessary to implement this plan for guidance of consumers in the area of electricity and water. It signed a contract for the production of five cartoon films for guidance in the use of electricity and water with a firm specializing in technical production.

Thermal Insulation

Pursuant to a recommendation of the ministers of electricity and water in their first meeting contained in a draft resolution on thermal insulation prepared by the committee on guidance, the secretariat undertook to prepare a technical regulation concerning thermal insulation in final form and to publish it in a booklet and distribute the text of the booklet to the member states (Appendix number 4).

In the second meeting of the ministers of electricity and water on 22 April 1985, the ministers affirmed the need to apply the regulation on thermal insulation, in view of the savings it can achieve in electricity consumption. All of the members of the standing ministerial committee on electricity and water cooperation will undertake the steps necessary to make the regulation, which was decided upon in the first meeting, obligatory and to pursue its implementation in accordance with the timetable decided upon in their meeting in Doha.

Standardization of Specifications

Pursuant to recommendations of the ministers of electricity and water related to the committee on standardization of electricity and water specifications,

working groups drawn from the committee on specifications undertook preparation of the following:

- A temporary regulation for specifications concerning more efficient air-conditioning equipment;
- A draft of a plan for standardization of general specifications for contracts and agreements for electrical and mechanical work in member states.
- A draft plan for drinking water specifications in systems.
- A draft plan for specifications on extensions for water in buildings.

Creation of a Committee on Electricity and Water Cooperation

In its 14th meeting held in secretariat headquarters in Riyadh on 26-28 Jumada I 1405/17-19 March 1985, the ministerial council reviewed the summary of the first meeting of the ministers of electricity and water and decided on the "creation of a committee of ministers of electricity and water in the GCC states in the area of electricity and water to meet in the purview of the secretariat or whenever need dictates."

Technological and Scientific Cooperation

The secretariat, in cooperation with the Saudi National Center for the Sciences and Technology and the International Organization for Patents, undertook to hold a conference on industrial patents on 7-9 May 1984. It submitted the recommendations of this conference to the fourth meeting of the committee on technological and scientific cooperation, held on 9-10 December 1984. Among its most important recommendations are the following:

1. Establishment of a unified central agency within the secretariat for patents on inventions, its mission being the verification, publication and distribution of data about inventions. It is worth mentioning that the secretariat is currently in the final stages of preparation of unified regulations on patents on inventions.
2. In the area of remote sensing, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has agreed to provide the GCC states with the data and pictures they need, acquiring them from the ground station for which studies have been completed and whose construction will begin shortly.

Public Works, Municipalities and Housing

1. The committee of ministers of housing in the GCC states decided, in its first meeting held in secretariat headquarters in March 1983, to standardize dimensional specifications in the area of construction and building materials. After the member states reviewed the study undertaken by the secretariat, their highnesses and excellencies the ministers of housing in the GCC states decided, in their second meeting in November 1984, to have the organization for specifications and measurements in the GCC states complete

the study, since the bylaws of the organization for specifications and measurements in the GCC states call for preparation of all types of standardized dimensional specifications in the Gulf.

2. Also, the committee of ministers of housing in the GCC states decided, in their first meeting, to create a unified concept for writing a system of regulations on the fundamentals of building design (regulations). In view of the experience of the organization for specifications and measurements in the GCC states in this matter and its activities in this field on the regional and international levels, it was commissioned to prepare a study on unified regulations for the GCC states concerning building specifications.

3. The committee of ministers of housing in the GCC states decided, in its first meeting, held in secretariat headquarters, to exchange and further the development of expertise among the various executive agencies in the field of housing. On 2 February 1985 implementation was begun with the first stage of a program of visits by technicians and officials in housing. The first stage consisted of trips through Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar by housing officials in the GCC states, including 17 individuals from all of the member states. The program included field trips to housing projects being implemented by the GCC states, to building material factories, private contracting companies and engineering colleges in the member states. God willing, a group of housing officials in the GCC states will complete a second stage of visits to include the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain this coming September. When the program has been completed and evaluated by the member states, we hope, God willing, to begin a program of loaning technicians and officials between states of the GCC.

Negotiations with the European Community

In the past, two rounds of negotiations have taken place between the secretariat and a delegation from the European Community with the goal of agreeing on an agenda for official negotiations, how to begin these negotiations and the best form for reaching agreement on a joint cooperation treaty which will achieve the goals of the two sides. The results of these two rounds were presented to the ministerial council, which decided, in its 14th meeting, to create an agency within the organizational framework of institutional relations in the secretariat to negotiate in the name of the secretariat and representing the GCC states with states and economic groupings.

Commerce

The committee on commercial cooperation held its third meeting in secretariat headquarters in Riyadh on Tuesday, 18 Shawwal 1404/17 May 1984. The secretariat followed up on all of the issues on which agreement was reached in the report of the meeting of the committee, as follows:

1. Strategic Food Reserves

During the second meeting of the committee on commercial cooperation which met in al-Manamah, their excellencies the ministers agreed to commission the

secretariat to prepare a comprehensive study of a strategic food reserve for the states of the GCC, in accordance with a recommendation of a committee made up of officials responsible for the reserve, providing that the study include--in addition to the principal subjects--treatment of adequate storage, security, cost and the size of the reserves.

The secretariat decided to delegate this study to the World Bank, in consideration of the excellence of its expertise in this area. Four specialist companies have been selected and invitations sent to them after agreement on the elements of the study. Four consulting firms have been chosen to prepare the study, including the Saudi Consulting Services Firm.

In accordance with the elements of the study, it will be composed of two stages, stages, each of which will take about 10 months, including study of the reports by the secretariat and the member states and the preparation of any comments on it.

During the third meeting of the committee on commercial cooperation, a technical committee was formed to follow up on preparation of the study and to review the report on the first stage, which was submitted at the end of October 1984, and to present sufficient reasons to continue the second stage of the study. This technical committee held its first meeting in secretariat headquarters on 23-24 Dhu al-Hijjah 1404 during which it examined the consulting company's initial report and agreed on the points made in the report and on their inclusion in the final report. After acceptance of the draft of the final report, the secretariat convened a meeting of the committee following up on the study, held on 3-4 March 1985, which examined the draft of the report.

This study is considered to be one of the most important of the studies which the secretariat has been commissioned to do, due to its economic and strategic importance and the fact that it includes matters and issues that touch the lives of citizens of the GCC states and demonstrates practically the extent of the ties and fraternity that unite them.

2. A Center for Commercial Arbitration

In accordance with a commission from the committee on commercial cooperation in its third meeting, the secretariat received comments from Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the Union of Arab Gulf Chambers /of Commerce/, and the center for the settlement of disputes in the World Bank concerning the plan for a center for commercial arbitration for the states of the GCC. The secretariat prepared an agenda including these remarks in detail. It will be submitted to a committee of legal experts from the member states preparatory to its presentation to the committee on commercial cooperation in its fourth meeting.

3. A Distribution System for Basic Commodities

A meeting of officials from the supply administrations in the GCC states was held in secretariat headquarters in Riyadh on Tuesday and Wednesday,

12-13 Rabi'a I 1405/4-5 December 1984, in accordance with what had been agreed upon in the third meeting of the committee on commercial cooperation concerning inviting officials from supply administrations in the member states to study the possibility of establishing a unified distribution system for basic commodities. The recommendations of this meeting will be presented to the coming meeting of the committee on commercial cooperation.

4. Commercial Expositions

The first exposition for national products of the GCC states opened on 10 November 1984 in Kuwait. Various companies from the production sectors were in this exposition, which met with great success and positive results.

5. Joint Fund for Basic Commodities

The committee on commercial cooperation commissioned the secretariat to prepare a detailed memorandum on the agreement on a joint fund for basic commodities, including means of participation in it, the states that have signed the agreement, the states that have approved it, the means of voting in it and the extent of benefits to the GCC states if they join it. The secretariat presented this memorandum to the member states preparatory to conclusion of discussion of this subject in the committee's fourth meeting.

6. The GATT Organization

Pursuant to the decision made by the committee on commercial cooperation in its third meeting, which included agreement on a joint meeting between the GCC secretariat and the secretariat of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, known as GATT, a meeting was held on 11-14 Jumada II 1405/2-5 March 1985. Representatives from a number of ministries and government agencies in the GCC states participated in this conference. Speakers from the secretariat of GATT spoke to the conference. The discussions at the conference dealt with many topics related to trade policies and the basic principles of GATT, a system to solve trade conflicts, the advantages that would accrue to states of the GCC by joining GATT and other topics related to trade.

7. Group Purchasing of Basic Commodities

A meeting of representatives of the GCC states and representatives of a Pakistani rice exporting organization was held in secretariat headquarters on 4 December 1984 in order to negotiate the purchase of the needs of the GCC states for basmati and (silabasmati) rice for 1985. Agreement on price was not reached during the meeting. Then a representative from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was commissioned to negotiate with the rice organization for all the GCC states, whereupon agreement was reached on a price of \$665 per ton. The GCC states purchased their needs at this price.

8. Procedures for Licensing and Registering Certified Accountants

The secretariat presented to the third meeting of the committee on commercial cooperation a memorandum calling for a study on standardizing procedures

for licensing and registering certified accountants and for developing the accounting profession in the GCC states. The Ministry of Commerce in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia prepared a study of this topic which was distributed to the member states. It was agreed that the member states would inform the secretariat of their comments on the study so that it could be applied by all of the GCC states. Further, the secretariat was commissioned to prepare a memorandum on licensing and registration procedures for registered accountants in GCC states to be submitted to the committee's next meeting.

9. Specifications and Measurements

The first meeting of the board of directors of the organization [on specifications and measurements] met on Tuesday, 18 Shawwal 1404/17 July 1984 in secretariat headquarters in Riyadh, where the following took place:

- a) Announcement of the establishment of an organization for specifications and measurements for GCC states.
- b) Appropriation of a founding budget for the organization on specifications and measurements for the GCC states in the amount of 1.5 million Saudi riyals, to be paid equally by the member states to cover the organization's expenses for a 3 month period beginning with the date of the meeting.
- c) The secretariat was commissioned to take into consideration the opinion of the ministerial council concerning apportioning the shares of the GCC member states for the budget of the organization. This matter was submitted to the 12th meeting of the ministerial council, which directed the board of directors of the organization to apportion the 1985 budget equally among the member states until final agreement was reached on apportioning the shares.
- d) The GCC secretariat and the secretariat of the organization were commissioned to draw up plans for the statutes of the organization, including the fundamental, financial, accounting and organizational points. The two secretariats finished preparation of these plans and sent them to the member states preparatory to submitting them to the second meeting of the board of directors.
- e) A list of 48 model specifications and measurements was approved for use as standardized Gulf specifications.

The second meeting of the board of directors of the organization met on Sunday, 18 Safar 1405/11 November 1984 in Kuwait. The amount of 1.5 million [Saudi] riyals was approved for the budget of the organization, beginning January 1985. Also, it was decided to hold a meeting for representatives of ministries affected by the measurements to discuss the plans for the fundamental, financial, and organizational statutes of the organization after their preparation by the GCC secretariat and the secretariat of the organization.

Communications and Transportation

First: Communications

1. Construction of Navigational Aids.

Pursuant to a resolution by their excellencies the ministers of communications in their second meeting, the secretariat held a meeting of a team of competent experts from the GCC states to study navigational aids, with the goal of presenting a report on this matter to the consultative committee on land and sea transportation, where agreement was reached on the importance of navigational aids, and, thus, on the importance of coordination among the member states in this area. The team of experts recommended that the member states finance a company to service navigational aids--"Minyas"--to make it a company owned by the member states and run by a national manpower, thus suspending the activities of the company currently undertaking these activities. It was suggested that a Gulf company be established to take the place of the current company to build and maintain navigational aids. It was decided to refer the matter to the consultative committee on land and sea transportation for its decision.

2. Coordination in Marine Classification

The secretariat held a meeting of experts in marine classification in the member states, pursuant to a resolution by their excellencies the ministers of communications in their second meeting to standardize the bases, specifications and rules on the classification of ships to create movement toward establishing an organization for classification, which the member states, as organizations that practice classification of ships, would confirm.

3. Railroads

In continuation of efforts being exerted by the secretariat to implement the resolution of their excellencies the ministers to commission the secretariat to undertake a study of the economic feasibility of connecting the GCC states by railroad, a meeting was held of a team of experts in the member states to evaluate the initial study received by the secretariat from a consulting company, with the participation of a representative of the company. The points proposed by this group were added to the final study. The secretariat distributed the study of the economic feasibility of the plan to the member states to elicit their opinions preparatory to presenting the matter to the third meeting of their excellencies the ministers of transportation and communications for their decision.

4. A Treaty Against Marine Piracy

The secretariat forwarded an opinion of the legal administration on the best legal framework for a draft of a treaty against piracy, fraud and deception on the seas between the GCC states, seeking the opinions of the member states on this issue. The secretariat received responses from some of the states on the matter and will present their opinions to the third meeting of the ministers of transportation and communications.

5. Coastal Transportation Company

Pursuant to a resolution by their excellencies the ministers of transportation and communications in their second meeting, the secretariat contracted with an international consulting company to undertake a feasibility study on the establishment of a coastal transportation company to serve transportation movements among the GCC states.

6. Land Transportation Company

The secretariat is currently making contact with the World Bank to set down reference points for a study on establishing a company for land transportation among the GCC states. A draft of the reference points proposed for inclusion in the study has been received. The secretariat has amended the draft of the company's charter in terms of the unified economic agreement.

Second: Telegraph, Post and Telephone

1. Their excellencies the ministers of telegraph, post and telephone agreed to the recommendations presented to it by the committee on unification of telegraph, postal and telephone rates, prices and services in its first, second and third meetings. Agreement was reached for the member states to begin application of these rates and prices no later than 11 Sha'ban 1405/ 1 May 1985. The ministerial council agreed to these fees and prices in their 14th session at secretariat headquarters. The secretariat has been informed that some of the member states have begun to apply these rates. The fourth meeting of the committee on unification of fees and prices met in secretariat headquarters and reached agreement on the rest of the fees and prices. The secretariat will undertake to present the recommendations of the committee on fees and prices for telegraph and telephone services to the coming meeting of their excellencies the ministers.

2. Technical Coordination in Communications: The Standing Committee on Communications

Their excellencies the ministers of communications and the ministers of telegraph, post and telephone decided, in a report of their second meeting, to agree to the internal regulations of the technical office for communications of the GCC in the form suggested by the executive committee. Pursuant to this, the technical office for communications will constitute an agency of the GCC effective as of 1 Muharram 1406 (the charter for the standing committee on communications).

3. Integration among the GCC States in the Field of Communications

The secretariat is continuing coordination with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, which is undertaking to perform a study on integration among the GCC states in the field of communications. A working group has visited all of the GCC states. Final steps are now being taken for implementation of the study.

4. Training

The committee on training held its third meeting in secretariat headquarters. A working group of experts was formed which met in Riyadh on 21 April 1985 to discuss standardization of the curriculum in all of the training centers in the member states. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Post, Telephone and Telegraph presented a draft unified curriculum on the following subjects: the telephone system, telex management, the central electronic telex and coastal stations.

Further, the committee discussed the following in its third meeting:

- a) An exchange of training programs among member states.
- b) An exchange by member states of curricula that have been translated into Arabic.
- c) An inventory of the needs of the member states for technical cadres.
- d) Agreement on the topics to be included in the next meeting of the committee.

Their excellencies the ministers agreed in their second meeting to the items presented to it by the committee on training.

5. Post

The secretariat is continuing coordination with the Gulf postal organization to implement the matters that have been referred to the organization by the standing committee of the ministers of post, telephone, telegraph, and related to standardization of fees for the post and unification of the postal sign, in order to pass along to the postal system progress that has been made in communications.

6. Coordination with Communications Working Group Number 2--The Military Committee

The economic affairs [missing word] held a joint meeting of communications working group number 2--the military committee--and representatives of the Ministries of Communications and of post, telephone, telegraph and to study the needs of the military agencies, pursuant to a resolution by their excellencies the ministers of these ministries in a report of their second meeting.

Third: Ports

1. A Development Study for Omani Ports

Port officials reviewed in the fourth meeting a study prepared by an international consulting firm and a supplementary study presented by the general organization for ports in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with the following results:

a). The port officials recommended development of Omani ports to meet the needs of the GCC states in emergency situations.

b). The supplementary study recommended a number of options for a number of piers in case the straits were blocked.

2. The port authorities officials passed the following resolutions and recommendations in their third meetings: fighting pollution resulting from waters thrown off by ships:

A memorandum presented by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia concerning the battle against pollution resulting from waste thrown off by ships was reviewed. They decided on the following:

a). To endorse the current trend in the international maritime zone (the IMO) /as given/ requiring ships to clean their holds in port after unloading their goods.

b). To have the member states charge the board of directors of the international organization to support this trend.

Public Channel 16

They reviewed the first section of a letter by his excellency the minister of finance and national economy in Bahrain about the misuse of public channel number 16, and decided to commission the secretariat to address the standing committee for Arab gulf communications to emphasize the necessity of stipulating when a license is given that it may be used only for the purpose for which it is intended.

Standardization of Statistical Categories for Ports

A letter by the director-general of the general organization for ports in Kuwait was reviewed concerning standardization of statistical categories for the ports in the states of the GCC. They requested the general organization for ports in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to prepare a draft of a standardized form for statistical categories. This was done and it was distributed to the member states since initial consent had been received from some of the states.

Standardization of Manifest Reports

Bahrain requested that some improvements be incorporated into the standardized manifest report. This was submitted to the next meeting of the port authority officials.

Standardized Rules and Instructions for Ports

Port authority officials reviewed the steps that have been taken for completion of the information needed for printing the standardized rules and instructions for the ports of the states of the GCC. It was agreed to apply these rules

and instructions simultaneously by all states of the GCC as of 1 Rajab 1405/22 March 1985.

Training

Equipment was examined that is used by the general organization for ports in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to complete building and equipping a center for training able to receive trainees from among the citizens of all GCC states. They reviewed the steps taken by the secretariat to complete the operational, organizational, administrative and financial aspects and they reviewed paragraph number 2 of resolution number 4 from the second meeting of the ministers of transportation and communications concerning the possibility of expanding the center's training programs.

Bases for Assessing and Pricing Fees for Port Facility Services

The bases for assessing and pricing fees for port facility services in the GCC ports were discussed and work was done on standardizing them. The general organization for ports in Kuwait will prepare a draft of standardized fees, which will be distributed to the member states before the next meeting of the port authority officials.

The Organization for Marine Classification

Pursuant to a resolution of the second meeting of the ministers of transportation and communications concerning a suggestion by Bahrain for the establishment of an organization devoted to marine classification, a meeting was held of a committee of experts in which it was recommended that the bases for dealing with marine classification organizations be standardized.

Fourth: Weather Observation

On the basis of a request from Qatar, a meeting of weather experts of the member states was held in which the following was agreed upon:

1. A recommendation to form a standing committee within the framework of the secretariat made up of the directors general for weather, or those under their authority, to realize cooperation among the member states.
2. A recommendation to designate one of the currently existing observation centers in the GCC states to serve all the states of the GCC, and a recommendation that the national center for weather and environmental observation currently in the city of Jiddah, Saudi Arabia assume this task.
3. A recommendation to connect the centers currently existing in the GCC states with one another.
4. A recommendation to unify and publish some of the weather reports in the states of the GCC.

Fifth: Aviation

1. Joint representation of the GCC states in the Civil Aviation Organization and nomination of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the board of the civil aviation organization.

It was agreed to support the nomination of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the board of the Civil Aviation Organization as a representative of the rest of the GCC states in the region. Also, it was agreed to change the office of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Montreal into a joint office for the member states in the Civil Aviation Organization.

2. Joint Ticket Envelopes

Publication was completed of the standardized ticket envelopes for the three national companies for the domestic sectors. They became effective on 1 February 1985.

3. The joint schedule.

Evaluation was completed of the joint schedule experiment, of which three versions had been issued. Since it was clear that it had a limited degree of use, it was agreed that each company would undertake to incorporate the trips of the other two companies in their schedules as well as include them in the reservation system, in order to ease travel procedures between the GCC states.

4. Beginning application of the 40 percent discount that the national companies had agreed to give to youth in the GCC states.

5. A recommendation to study creation of a joint company to provide ground services in Bombay and other international airports.

6. An aviation information zone.

Civil aviation officials in the member states discussed the possibility of creating an aviation information zone to serve the region of the GCC states. It was agreed that the secretariat, in coordination with the committee on aerial navigation and the military agencies, undertake a study to evaluate the services in the aviation zones and to propose whatever center or centers need to be created to offer service in a better manner.

Petroleum and Gas

The standing ministerial committee on petroleum cooperation held an emergency meeting in al-Ta'if on 10 Ramadan 1404/10 June 1984, during the tanker incidents in the Gulf region. Preparation was completed for efforts to confront obstacles that have appeared or will appear in the future that will affect the exports of the member states. Also, practical measures were taken concerning the subject of insurance and the measures taken by the insurance organizations concerning export shipments of the member states of the region.

The committee of marketing directors of the national petroleum companies held their third meeting in Bahrain on Tuesday and Wednesday, 14-15 Muharram 1405/ 9-10 October 1984. Agreement was reached in this meeting on the final unified form for contracts. Also, preparation was completed for drawing up a unified marketing policy for all sales of petroleum products and liquified gas by the GCC states. A list of the amounts exported by each country was drawn up in order to be informed about the markets at which they aim and the other competition from other states. The coordination of members in areas of consultation, such as in raising or lowering prices for gas, was strengthened.

Moreover, it was agreed to begin to draw up pricing guidelines for the Gulf region in order to be guided by them in the future in the process of pricing, so that the region, in its legal personality, may become one of the places in the world for pricing, such as Singapore, Rotterdam or elsewhere.

The secretariat, in coordination with the general organization for petroleum and minerals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, organized a conference on industrial and occupational safety for workers in the national petroleum companies in the GCC states, held in Riyadh on 28 July 1984. The program lasted for 12 days, during which the plans of each of the member states were examined and their abilities regarding the security of petroleum installations were reviewed. Also, principles were established for procedures to follow up on security and safety issues among the states, including ways to coordinate them.

Further, in coordination with the Kuwait petroleum organization, the secretariat organized a conference on the development of human resources in the petroleum sector. It was held in Kuwait on 10-13 December 1984, during which the experiments that the national petroleum companies have carried out concerning training procedures for workers, to guarantee worker permanency and to encourage citizens to work in the field of petroleum, were reviewed. In confirmation of the success of this meeting, the participants agreed on the need to repeat it.

The secretariat gave great attention to training procedures in petroleum installations where training programs were completed and experience was gained successfully. Employees were transferred from one petroleum installation to another in the member states. The number of those transferred for work or training purposes is greater than 200.

The Gas Network

In view of the benefits afforded by gas in lowering costs and easing the burden of consumption of refined products, and given that the use of gas eases some of the difficulties of crude oil production, planning and programming in the member states, the standing ministerial committee on petroleum cooperation decided, in its third meeting, to form a committee to study the best means to provide gas to electricity generating stations and water purification stations. This included setting up a gas distribution network. Statistical reports demonstrate that there is a pressing need for construction of a joint network to transport and distribute gas to consumption points in

the GCC states, including electricity and water desalinization plants and factories.

In fact, an understanding has been reached with one of the specialized international companies to perform an initial study for the project. This study has been finished. Also, the secretariat has completed preparation of the technical elements necessary for a study of the markets and an analysis of the probabilities of supply and demand through the year 2000.

In light of this, the principal ministerial committee decided to carry out the technical and economic study for the project, including determination of price and volume of consumption. A committee was formed for this, composed of the Qatar general organization for petroleum, the Kuwait petroleum organization, the Saudi Arabian general organization for petroleum and minerals and the GCC secretariat.

The 14th session of the ministerial council, which met in Riyadh, agreed to have the secretariat continue to follow up on this issue, and commissioned his excellency the director-general of Petromin to continue to bring together the points of view of the officials of the countries benefiting from the plan and the understanding on prices.

A Study on Crude Oil Pipelines

A contract was concluded with the research institute of the petroleum and minerals university in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the French company Totale for a study of the economic feasibility of the plan and a determination of its route and cost. Their excellencies the members of the standing ministerial committee on petroleum cooperation were informed about what the study contained in their seventh meeting, which met in Geneva on 8 Safar 1405/ 1 November 1984. They agreed to a study of the plan on the basis of use of the pipeline on a permanent basis, not just during critical circumstances.

The secretariat is undertaking to follow up on the study. The report on the first stage was received and modified by the secretariat. In light of this, the report on the second stage was prepared and the secretariat distributed it to all member states for examination and to elicit their observations on it. The report on the third stage has also been received. It is expected that this study will be completed within the next few weeks.

Standardization of Prices for Petroleum Products and Gas in Domestic Markets

The secretariat undertook to notify their excellencies the ministers of petroleum of the decision of the supreme council in its fifth session that confirmed the prices agreed to by the ministers of petroleum in the seventh meeting of the standing ministerial committee on petroleum cooperation (except for the price proposed for diesel). The committee is proposing a timetable for application of these prices.

The secretariat has requested from the ministers of petroleum their ideas for drawing up a timetable for reaching these prices.

Plan for Civilian and Military Airplane Engine Oils

The general organization for petroleum and minerals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia presented its desire to establish a plant to produce industrial oils needed for civilian and military airplane engines. The organization expressed its desire for member states to share in construction of this plant. The heads of the national petroleum companies, in their fourth meeting held in Qatar, reached a decision determining that the general organization for petroleum and minerals undertake to gather the information available about the needs of the member states. Petromin was supplied with this data. Also, a meeting was held with officials of the organization in which this subject and information on developments regarding it were discussed.

Emergency Plan

The members have made great strides concerning the technical matters of the emergency plan. This topic was submitted to the seventh meeting of the standing ministerial committee for petroleum cooperation, where it was agreed to determine the emergency plan--that is, the administrative procedures to be used, and the distribution of fuel to all sectors in time of emergency.

The secretariat is following up on this matter, urging the members states to speed up the preparation of their plans and setting up exchange visits between member states and Kuwait, which has been commissioned to prepare a comprehensive regional plan for all of the GCC states, in order to explain and discuss all aspects of the local plans. The states of Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates have completed their national plans. The other states are still working strenuously to complete theirs. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has undertaken to form a committee composed of all of the relevant ministries and agencies, pursuant to directives from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz. This committee is coordinating with the secretariat from time to time through the Ministry of Defense.

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve

The civilian strategic reserves of petroleum products is known to be an amount of petroleum products needed for 45 days of consumption by the domestic markets, a constant level present at all times in existing storage facilities, whether above or below ground.

The ministers of petroleum attach great importance to this matter, because they have dealt with it since their second meeting on 1 Rajab 1402/22 April 1982, and they have passed a large number of resolutions on this matter.

The secretariat is undertaking discussion and study of the matter from the military, strategic and security perspectives. The ministers of petroleum have agreed to this measure.

The committee in charge of a study of the strategic reserve and the emergency plan recently met in Riyadh on 3 Dhu al-Qa'dah 1404/31 July 1984. This is pursuant to a commission from the standing ministerial committee on

petroleum cooperation in its sixth meeting, during which the stages reached by each country in preparation of their strategic reserve were examined. It was agreed to hurry the replies to inquiries from Kuwait. Also, agreement was reached on the need to begin preparation of studies aimed at drawing up long-term phased plans for construction of storage facilities, including determination of their specifications and their locations so as to assure the flexibility of supply from them. Also, they urged the need to improve the distribution system and to increase its flexibility.

Relations with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

In implementation of what was agreed to between the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries and the GCC secretariat during a meeting between the two in Kuwait in response to an invitation from the secretariat, a delegation from the secretariat general of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries visited the secretariat headquarters of the GCC on 6-7 March 1985. The two parties agreed on the needs to continue meetings and contacts to develop lasting cooperation between them in areas that serve the interests of the two parties.

Exploitation of the International Sea Bed

During the 10th session of the ministerial council, which met on 8-9 Jumada II 1404/10-11 March 1984, Kuwait presented a memorandum calling for a feasibility study on establishing a Gulf company to exploit the international sea bed. In response, the ministerial council commissioned their excellencies the minister of petroleum and mineral resources in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the minister of finance and the minister of planning in Kuwait to conduct a study of the issue in its various legal, economic and technical aspects and to submit a report on this.

Since a similar plan was already before the economic council of the Arab League, the secretariat decided to delay investigation of the subject until the meetings of the Arab League are completed. In the seventh meeting of the standing ministerial committee on petroleum cooperation, which met in Geneva on 8 Safar 1405, the petroleum ministers in the GCC states commissioned the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to register in lieu of the rest of the member states.

In the preparatory meeting for the ministerial council that met in Kuwait on 27-28 Safar 1404, the ministerial council decided to authorize the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to register in the name of the Saudi-Sudanese Organization, after which the legal situation of the organization will be modified so as to allow the rest of the member states to participate in it. The secretariat informed the ministerial council, in its 14th meeting that was held in Riyadh, of the developments in this matter and the efforts of the Arab League concerning it. The council decided to have the secretariat follow up on this issue.

The Basic Oils Plan

In the third meeting of the standing ministerial committee on petroleum cooperation, held in Oman on 26-27 Dhu al-Hijjah 1402/13-14 October 1983, it was agreed to commission a working group from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain to study the basic oils in the member states and their needs for them.

The working group commissioned held two meetings, the first in Kuwait and the second in Jiddah on 26-27 Rabi'a II 1403/10-11 [month not given] 1983 [as published]. A number of the recommendations passed were presented to the seventh meeting of the standing ministerial committee on petroleum cooperation, where the ministers of petroleum in the GCC states decided to commission the general organization for petroleum and minerals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to study the economic benefits of the plan preparatory to passing resolutions on it by the standing ministerial committee on petroleum cooperation.

A number of meetings were held between officials of Petromin and the secretariat. Petromin has begun preparation of this study.

Resolutions Concerning Application of the Unified Economic Agreement

The supreme council decided, in its fifth session, to approve reform of the ownership of property by citizens of the GCC states in member states in accordance with the recommendation forwarded by the ministerial council (Appendix number 10). The reform stipulates permission for natural citizens of the GCC states to own a single piece of real estate, whether land or a building, in the regular residential areas in any member country, provided that the area of the land not exceed 3,000 square meters and that it is for residential use by the owner or his family. If the property is land, the owner must begin to build on it within a period of 3 years from the date of its registration in his name and to complete the building within 5 years of that date. The owner of property may not transfer ownership until after 8 years from the date of its registration in his name. An exception is possible in case of dire necessity before the expiration of this period, provided that permission is received from the relevant authorities.

If the ownership is by inheritance, then the owner will be treated as a citizen of the state in which the property is located, and in the case of someone who desires ownership and who holds citizenship in one of the member states by means of naturalization, a period of at least 10 years since naturalization is imposed as a condition.

The natural and legal citizens of states of the GCC are allowed to rent land and to use it in such enterprises as are allowed to them. Properties located in the cities of Mecca and Medina are exempt from the provisions of this reform. Further, the state has the right to revoke ownership of property for reasons of public welfare by giving compensation, by prohibiting its acquisition or by prohibiting ownership or use in designated areas for security reasons. The reform does not invalidate any of the excellent rights

that... have been valid in the past or that may be granted in the future by all or some of the member states. This reform became effective on 27 February 1985. The experiment will be evaluated by the ministerial council 5 years from the date on which it became effective.

His Highness King 'Isa Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, also issued a decree concerning the reform of property ownership.

Ministerial decree number 24 of 1985 was issued for the United Arab Emirates concerning the executive order for unified law number 2 of 1984 concerning the issue of citizens of the GCC states engaging in economic activities in the United Arab Emirates.

His Majesty King Fahd and the prime minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia issued royal decree number 5/506/m on 19 Rabi'a I 1405 concerning the fact that it is enough to require zakat from all of the citizens of the GCC states, both natural and legal, rather than to subject them to income tax when they engage in activities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, just like their brothers the citizens of the kingdom, according to number 3/719 of Rabi'a II 1405 for the agency for zakat and income tax which implements this.

On the basis of two recommendations issued by the committee on financial and economic cooperation in its fifth meeting of 11 May 1983 and its seventh meeting of 1-2 May 1984 in implementation of paragraph number 20 of the unified economic agreement, his excellency the minister of communications issued decree number 2/19/85 of 9 February 1985 concerning expansion of facilities for ships belonging to the GCC states.

Currency, Finances and Investment

The committee on economic and financial cooperation held a number of meetings and began the work of taking coordinated steps and forms of integration. Further, the third meeting of the committee of the governors of the currency organizations and central banks was held, as well as a meeting of the directors of the banking training institutes, to strengthen coordination among the GCC states in these areas.

Social, Cultural and Scientific Rapprochement

This is coordination and unification of the joint work of the member states in order to translate the goals of the GCC into actual, palpable reality, through preparation of a strategic plan for joint work among the member states in the areas of education, youth, sports, human resources and social, cultural, environmental and health affairs.

It sets down the plans, programs and follow up on their implementation, assesses the extent of their achievement of the goals that have been undertaken for their sake and aims for cooperation with the international, Arab and regional organizations working in human and environmental fields.

Education and Instruction

Although the ministers of education, instruction and learning in the GCC states have not yet met to draw up the framework for work in the field of education and instruction in a way that agrees with the aspirations and goals of the GCC, the secretariat has outlined quick steps, represented in the following:

1. Preparation of a working paper to be presented to the ministers of education, instruction and learning in their first meeting in Dhu al-Hijjah 1405/ September 1985.
2. In recognition of the real and comprehensive nature of the goal that the establishment of the GCC in the region of the Arab gulf represents, desiring crystallization of the existing joint efforts in the area to achieve the goals of the GCC, striving to avoid duplication and in achievement of integration of the efforts of the secretariat general with what the competent associations and organizations present in the Gulf are undertaking, a memorandum of understanding was reached to organize the work between the GCC secretariat and the Arab Education Office in the Gulf states. It was affirmed by the ministers of education, instruction and learning as members of the education office in their eighth meeting in Doha on 3-6 Rajab 1405/ 24-25 March 1985.
3. Instructional material condensed from the requirements for establishment of the GCC and its aspirations has been prepared which will be a source to which writers in the future and teachers in the present will refer to the proposed effort to support the goals of the GCC, as a translation of the determination of the political leaders and realization of the hopes of the citizens and instruction for the students in the higher secondary grades and university.
4. Participation in preparation of plans of the Arab Education Office and its agencies, which has been provided with some of the plans considered to be important by the secretariat, which are summarized as follows:
 - a) Work on creation of a descriptive study of the currently existing relationships between various central and local agencies active in the fields of education and instruction.
 - b) Work on creation of advanced systems involved with educational evaluation and measurement.
 - c) Coordination of efforts in contracting with teachers from abroad by working to standardize contracts and bring together salaries and remuneration for all stages and types of education.
 - d) Preparation of special education places for the handicapped.
- 3) Work on creating a system guaranteeing equal treatment among the students of the GCC states, treating them as students of one state.

f) Work on forming a technical committee for accreditation among the universities. These plans have won acceptance and have been incorporated into plans of the office of advanced education, concerning which resolutions have been issued by the eighth general conference of ministers of education, instruction and learning that met in Doha, Qatar.

5. Beginning implementation of the joint educational and scientific programs that the GCC secretariat has undertaken as a means of introducing the GCC and its agencies to students in schools of the member states.

6. Participation in preparation of the first educational competition of the GCC, being organized by the general administration for education in the Riyadh area.

7. Participation in a large number of conferences, seminars and meetings related to education and instruction.

Culture

1. The first meeting of officials of antiquities and museums in the GCC states was held on 14-15 Sha'ban 1404/15-16 May 1984, as part of the cultural work of the GCC states. A result of the meeting will be future programs, including the following:

Policies and general principles for preserving antiquities and means of coordination and joint work among the member states in the area of antiquities and museums to exchange expertise and information among the antiquities and museum administrations in the member states. It was decided in the meeting to create a legal technical committee in the area of antiquities to draw up a model for a unified agreement between the member states and foreign expeditions working in excavation and exploration in order to assure the full rights of the member states. Moreover, it was decided to hold a meeting of officials of antiquities and museums annually in May. The secretariat is undertaking to prepare its agenda, in light of the decisions of the first meeting and the suggestions of the member states.

The implementation of the resolutions and proposals issued by the meeting is still being followed up.

2. Cooperation between the GCC secretariat and some of the agencies concerned with antiquities, such as the House of Islamic Antiquities and the center for explorations and Islamic antiquities in the King Faysal Foundation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in order to create bases for a relationship of cooperation between the two parties to oppose ignorance of Islamic antiquities and to increase discovery of them.

3. Understanding was reached between the secretariat and the House of Islamic Antiquities in Kuwait, the King Sa'ud University and the department of antiquities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to draw up the bases for a comprehensive guide to antiquities in the GCC states.

4. The GCC secretariat participated in a conference on joint cultural activity held in Kuwait on 11-12 May 1985. The conference discussed the process of determining the course of cultural activity in the GCC states and ways to implement its cultural programs, tie the Gulf organizations together and create increased opportunities for close ties among authors, writers and intellectuals. This is in the form of a plan to realize the strategy of cultural cooperation among the GCC states.
5. Preparations were completed for establishment of the second traveling exhibition, which will be set up in Oman on the occasion of the sixth summit conference.
6. The secretariat is preparing for the second meeting of officials of museums and antiquities in the GCC states, which will be held on 15-16 May 1985.
7. In implementation of resolution number 4 from the first meeting of the museum and antiquities officials in the GCC states concerning setting up the combined traveling exhibition of antiquities on a rotating basis among the member states, the state of Kuwait organized an exhibition on the occasion of the fifth summit conference meeting.
8. The GCC secretariat is undertaking preparation of a meeting of some authors in the GCC states to consider aspects of concern to workers in this field.

Social Affairs

The ministers of labor and social affairs, in their second meeting held in secretariat headquarters on 23-24 Rajab 1404/24-25 April 1984, adopted a number of resolutions in regard to the following:

1. The secretariat undertook to design a form requesting information for a study of how to support social organizations and agencies with specialized national manpower and sent it to the member states. It was filled in by the states and the information was collected and studies and suggestions were drawn up.
2. Collecting and studying information concerning social security and social assistance, and drawing up a concept and proposals for ways to develop them, achieving their unification in the future.
3. Establishing contacts with the relevant agencies in the member states concerning collection of information and data about the facts of the role of associations dedicated to public welfare and drawing up the suggestions necessary for them.
4. The secretariat undertook to inform the member states of continued interest in the elderly, and collected and distributed the information required concerning the situation of the elderly, the retired and other older people, so that the necessary suggestions can be made.

5. The secretariat drew up a suggestion for consideration of a conference on the subject of "The Disinclination of Youth for Social Work."

The Third Meeting of the Ministers for Labor and Social Affairs

In response to an invitation from the GCC secretariat the third meeting of the ministers of labor and social affairs in the member states met in secretariat headquarters in Riyadh on Monday, 16 Sha'ban 1405/6 May 1985.

The meeting was chaired by his excellency Mr Khalid Jumay'an Salim al-Jumay'an, the minister of social affairs and labor in Kuwait.

After listening to the opening speeches and the welcome by his excellency the chairman and his excellency Mr Muhammad 'Ali al-Fayiz, the minister of labor and social affairs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and after settlement of the timetable and the draft agenda, the suggestions of the third meeting of representatives of the Ministries of Labor and Social Affairs, held on 14-15 Sha'ban 1405/4-5 May 1985, and its appendices, were examined and the ministers passed the following resolutions:

A. Labor

1. Unification of labor laws and regulations:

After examination of the study and the suggestions presented by the secretariat concerning the possibility of unifying the labor laws and regulations in the member states, the ministers decided to wait and to continue coordination with the follow-up office concerning the unified Gulf labor law.

2. The minutes of the meeting for officials of technical education and vocational training:

After review of the report of the first meeting of authorized officials for technical education and vocational training which met in secretariat headquarters on 5-6 Muharram 1405/30 September-1 October 1984, the ministers decided to have the member states convey the minutes to the relevant agencies with the recommendation that each state communicate its remarks and proposals to the secretariat at the next meeting of the ministers of labor and social affairs.

3. Labor claims and stability of labor relations:

Concerning the comparative field study that the secretariat is undertaking in cooperation with the member states concerning labor claims and ways of supporting stable labor relations, the ministers decided to complete the records of each member state pertaining to the matter and to complete the study on a comparative field basis.

4. Safety and occupational awareness:

Agreement was reached on the proposed general framework for a conference on occupational safety and health presented to the meeting, taking into

consideration that the activities of the conference be directed to draw up unified bases for developing preventive awareness of occupational dangers and means to develop this.

5. Equality of rights for citizens of the GCC states who work in the private sector:

After examination of a memorandum from the secretariat concerning the equality of rights and responsibilities of citizens of the GCC states who work in the private sector, the ministers decided for the equality of rights and responsibilities for citizens of the GCC states, depending on level, for all levels of the private sector work force. The secretariat is drawing up the regulations for implementation of this in consultation with the member states.

6. Measures for importing manpower:

After examination of a memorandum from the secretariat concerning measures to import manpower, and the general framework suggested for unifying them, the ministers decided to form a competent committee from the member states to complete a study and suggest a unified labor directory in accordance with the proposed general framework submitted by the secretariat.

7. A draft international agreement to protect the rights of all immigrant workers and members of their families:

After examination of a memorandum from the secretariat including a study and classification of the remarks of the member states and the secretariat on the draft for an international agreement to protect the rights of all immigrant workers and members of their families, the ministers decided on the following:

7-1. To have the GCC secretariat excerpt the remarks which conflict with Islamic religion and law and the interests of the GCC states and to supply them to the foreign ministries.

7-2. To transmit to the foreign ministries of the member states all of the remarks made by the member states and the secretariat, and to demand that the foreign ministries exert every means possible either: 1) to participate in the formulation committee that is drafting the plan or at least to communicate the point of view of the GCC states to the Arab states and the friendly states participating in its formulation in order to eliminate that which contradicts Islamic belief and the interests of the GCC states, or 2) if these efforts are not successful, to propose to the representatives of the GCC states in the United Nations that they register their reservations about the offensive material so that it is not the responsibility of the member states should they not ratify the agreement.

8. Achievement of ideal utilization of national manpower:

After examination of the programs and projects suggested in the area of labor for the coming year, the ministers decided to have the secretariat

undertake to crystallize and suggest suitable ways and means to achieve ideal utilization of national manpower and its representation in various professions and activities, and to make the national manpower aware of the importance of practicing the professions and acquiring expertise, benefiting in this way from the results and recommendations of competent conferences and seminars that treated with the issue in the sphere of the GCC states.

B. The Social Field

1. Support for social organizations with national manpower:

After examination of a study by the secretariat on the importance of supporting social organizations with national manpower, the ministers decided on the following:

1-1. To adopt the suggestions received in the study mentioned with emphasis on the member states benefiting from their specialized institutes and the departments of social service existing in their universities, and on having these departments and institutes diversify specializations so as to cover the areas of social care and services and to direct their curricula and programs so as to serve scientific goals after graduation, while delaying establishment of a regional institute at the level of the GCC.

1-2. The secretariat is undertaking to notify the educational agencies in the member states of the results of the study and the recommendations proposed to support social work educational programs.

2. Social security and social assistance:

After examination of the concept and suggestions of the secretariat concerning social security, including social assistance, the ministers decided the following:

2-1. To delay unification of social security statutes and benefits for the citizens of the GCC states based on these statutes, and to continue coordination with the office follow-up on this study being prepared on the subject.

2-2. Agreement on a suggestion to generalize the production plans for beneficiaries of social security and to benefit from the experience of the member states in this area.

3. Care for retired elderly people without disability:

The suitable ministers decided, concerning the suggestions set forth in the secretariat's paper concerning care for elderly people who are not incapacitated, to be guided by the circumstances of each state.

4. Employment of the handicapped:

With regard to the suggestions of the secretariat concerning employment of blind people or people with other handicaps, the ministers decided to have

the secretariat undertake a study of the legal regulations and procedures taken in member states to employ the handicapped and to suggest what is needed to develop them, including the rights of these groups to work, care and the benefits of social services and public agencies.

5. The Gulf union for the handicapped:

The ministers examined a request by the Qatar Red Crescent society concerning adoption of establishment of a Gulf union for the handicapped at the GCC level. They decided to leave it up to the society to contact the relevant agencies in the member states to adopt what they deem appropriate concerning this matter.

C. Topics that Need Coordination and Unification of the Member States' Positions

The ministers were informed about the activities, collaborations and remarks of the member states concerning:

1. A round-table conference concerning Asian workers in the Arab states held in Bangkok in September 1984.
2. The second meeting of a group of experts on social security and labor concerning exchange of the labor force and social security among the member states of the Islamic Conference Organization, which met in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in October 1984.
3. The preparatory conference for the international conference on women held in New Delhi in April 1985.
4. The meeting of the general session of UNICEF in New York in April 1985.

Youth and Sports

The field of youth and sports is considered one of the areas in which great progress has been made in cooperation among the GCC states. Three meetings have been held by the ministers responsible for youth and sports, from which have issued joint working plans that include the cultural aspect, the social aspect and the sports aspect. Under each of these aspects the activities culminate in competitions, championships and camps and includes coordination of activities among the competent agencies in the GCC states. The secretariat is continuously following up on coordination of the work in these fields and implementation of what the ministers of youth and sport have decided by means of the technical committees that have been formed for this purpose and which engage in activities with complete effectiveness.

Among the areas of work included in the activities of youth and sport are scouting, the Olympic games and the International Year for Youth. Special meetings have been held concerning this goal which have set down a concept for working plans in the area of scouting and the area of the Olympic games. As for the 1983 International Year for Youth, its activities have been distributed among

various areas. Executive programs have been put into operation for this, to be followed up by technical committees formed from the member states on a permanent basis.

Cultural festivals for the youth of the GCC states:

- a) A report on the holding of the festival in Japan in December 1985.
- b) Signing of the final contract has been completed with an international relations company in Japan to hold the festival.
- c) Four meetings have been held preparatory to the festival.
- d) His Highness Prince Faysal ibn Fahd ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the overall head of youth care, was chosen to head the festival by the third meeting of the ministers for youth and sports.

Among the programs and activities that originate at the GCC level and in which all of the states have participated during the 1985 International Year for Youth, are the following:

A GCC cup competition for championship clubs in soccer, the continuing organization of which fell to the soccer federations in the GCC states in implementation of a resolution by the ministers of youth and sport in their third meeting pertaining to competitions. The third championship for this competition among the soccer clubs and championship teams in the GCC states began on 3 January 1985 and ended with the al-Ahli club in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia achieving first place in the first division and the al-'Arabi club in Kuwait attaining first place in the second division. The final match between the two clubs took place on 22 January 1985 in the United Arab Emirates, in which the al-Ahli club took first place and the al-'Arabi club took second place.

An exhibition of fine arts and popular crafts:

-- The United Arab Emirates hosted an exhibition of fine arts and popular crafts on 20-24 January 1985. All of the member states participated in this exhibition.

A cultural competition for clubs of the GCC states:

-- The Sultanate of Oman hosted a competition on 16-20 March 1985. All of the member states and the GCC secretariat participated in it. The competition is to be an annual event.

A theatrical competition:

-- Kuwait hosted a theatrical competition on 11-21 February 1985 in which all the member states and the GCC secretariat participated.

A conference on centers for children:

-- Bahrain hosted a conference on centers for children on 26-30 March 1985, in which the secretariat participated. A number of recommendations came out in the conference concerning the care of children and giving them increased concern.

Second work camp for environmental service:

-- Qatar hosted the second work camp for environmental service on 1-8 March 1985. All of the member states participated in it.

A conference on sports information:

-- The United Arab Emirates organized a conference on 30 March-3 April 1985 in which all the member states and the GCC secretariat participated.

Concerning a study on youth and sports organizations and the extent of their use, the final contract for a study was signed with the education research center of King Sa'ud University.

A meeting of officials from science clubs:

-- Kuwait hosted a meeting of officials from the science clubs in the member states on 26-29 January 1985. A 5-year plan came out of the meeting for development of activities of the science clubs.

A group overland trip:

-- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosted a trip that toured many Saudi Arabian cities between 24 Jumada I-9 Jumada II 1405. All of the member states participated in it.

A meeting and conference on youth activities for the handicapped:

-- Kuwait hosted this activity on 10-19 Jumada II 1405. All of the states and the GCC secretariat participated in this.

A meeting of officials from societies of youth homes:

-- The Saudi Arabian Society for Youth Homes hosted a meeting for officials for youth homes in the GCC states from 20 Rabi'a II 1405-5 Jumada I 1405. A representative of the secretariat attended this meeting. Many recommendations came out of this meeting to raise the level of the youth homes societies in the GCC states.

In affirmation of the basic principles of the GCC and in embodiment of cooperation, a unified group, formed under the auspices of the GCC, participated in an international friendship basketball tournament in the Peoples' Republic of China in 1984.

The organizational committees resulting from the meeting of the ministers of youth and sports each met more than twice during each of the past 2 years.

The secretariat participated in a conference on development of scientific research in technical associations held in Kuwait in coordination with the Arab Organization for Science and Culture. The secretariat participated in the presentation of a lecture on the role of the GCC in assessing scientific activities in youth clubs.

Human Resources

The secretariat was able to create appropriate channels for work in the area of human resources through two meetings with the ministers of labor and social affairs, a meeting of the directors of the civil service agencies, a meeting of vocational training and technical education officials and by following up on implementation of the resolutions of the first ministerial meeting of the directors of the central agencies for civil service that met in the secretariat general headquarters on 22-24 Jumada II 1404 where the following was passed:

- 1) The secretariat prepared a comparative report on civil service organizations and a comparative study on civilian retirement in the member states.
- 2) It collected information, reports and completed forms from all of the member states to undertake the following studies:
 - a) A comparative study of classification systems for public employment. The office of employee affairs in Oman is undertaking preparation of this study.
 - b) A compilation and determination of the characteristics of the labor force of the civil service in the member states. The employment office of the state of Kuwait is undertaking this.
 - c) A study of the structure and characteristics of the central agencies for civil service in the member states and comparison of them. The employment office of the state of Kuwait is undertaking this study.
- 3) The secretariat addressed an invitation to the officials of the administrative development and training agencies in the member states to attend a first meeting. The member states prepared working papers for the meeting. The Institute of Public Administration in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is currently preparing a working paper in light of the working papers received from the member states.
- 4) The sector prepared a plan for a program of exchange of visits among the officials of the central civil service agencies in the member states. The first program of visits has been implemented, taking 18 days, 3 days in each state.
- 5) The secretariat prepared a memorandum on the equality of the rights and responsibilities related to public employment of citizens for presentation to the second ministerial meeting of the directors of the central civil service agencies in the member states.

6) Performance of a comprehensive survey on the number of public sector employees in each of the Gulf states who are not citizens of the state, including their employment levels and educational qualifications.

7) Agreement with the public office of civil service in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to undertake the following studies:

a) A study of the administrative procedures and forms used in the central civil service agencies preparatory to their gradual standardization.

b) A study of the transfer of the non-Gulf labor force among the member states.

c) A study of the bases and foundations of the pay policies in the member states.

In implementation of resolutions by the ministers of labor and social affairs in their second meeting held in secretariat headquarters on 23-24 Rajab 1405/24-25 [month not given] 1985, the following was concluded:

1. The secretariat prepared a memorandum concerning the equality of rights and responsibilities of citizens of the GCC states working in the national sector to present it to the third meeting of the ministers of labor and social affairs.

2. The secretariat finished preparation of a study concerning a draft for an international agreement on the protection of the rights of immigrant workers and members of their families.

3. The secretariat finished preparation of a concept for standardization of procedures related to importing labor.

4. The secretariat prepared a memorandum containing suggestions concerning the unification of labor regulations and laws.

5. The secretariat finished preparation of the general framework of the program and issues for a proposed conference on occupational health and safety in cooperation with the office in charge of follow up procedures for the council of ministers of labor and social affairs.

Health

1) The first meeting of the directors of the Red Crescent societies in the GCC states was held in secretariat headquarters on 28-29 Muharram 1405/23-24 October 1984.

The directors of the societies adopted a number of resolutions outlining cooperation and coordination among these societies. These resolutions are as follows:

- Coordination and cooperation among the societies concerning joint aid, particularly between the borders and the long lines.
- Training, which is of importance in providing the national manpower capable of carrying out all emergency health services.
- Coordination, cooperation and exchange of expertise among the societies.
- Coordination of international aid activities.
- Coordination of positions among the societies in international and regional meetings.
- Agreement to hold a meeting once each year on a rotating basis.

Further, the secretariat is undertaking to follow up on implementation of resolutions that came from the meeting.

2) Coordination with specialized organizations in the field of health, such as the secretariat for health in the Arab Gulf states. This was done by preparing a memorandum of understanding concerning the organization of the work with the health secretariat in its capacity as a specialized organization that presents its resolutions to the GCC and implements projects requested by the GCC through its secretariat general.

3) Establishment of first-aid stations on long roads (a resolution of the ministers of the interior in its third meeting in November 1983). This resolution was presented to the first meeting of the directors of the Red Crescent societies of the GCC states on 23-24 October 1984 for their decision concerning its implementation in the framework of a plan for joint aid among the GCC states which they will discuss. It was entrusted to the agency charged with preparation of a concept on joint aid among the GCC states.

Environmental Protection

Given the basic goals of the GCC to achieve integration and close ties among the member states in all fields, including the protection and preservation of the environment, the first meeting of environmental experts in the GCC states was held in Kuwait on 13-14 Muharram 1405/8-9 October 1984. A number of recommendations were issued from this meeting, the most important of which are the following:

- 1) The need to draw up a clear policy of guidelines for treatment of environmental problems.
- 2) Consideration of environmental points of view and making environmental planning an integral part of comprehensive planning in all areas.
- 3) Support of the national agencies concerned with environmental matters.
- 4) Development of standardized environmental specifications and characteristics and setting down general rules for pollution levels.

- 5) Work through the media and study programs and other means to raise the community level of awareness of environmental issues
- 6) Coordination among the member states and encouragement of scientific research and studies to explore the environmental problems from which the region is suffering.
- 7) Suggestion of a priority working plan to include the agencies concerned with the environment in the member states undertaking research projects, studies and surveys in the various environmental fields.
- 8) Formation of a committee on environmental cooperation, composed of the leading officials of the executive agencies for environmental protection in the member states. It will meet once a year to set down adequate bases for implementation of general policies and principles, to make suggestions necessary to protect the environment and to form the required subcommittees and working groups.
- 9) The secretariat invites ministers responsible for environmental affairs in member states to meet regularly to study the results of the work of the committee on environmental cooperation and to do what they deem appropriate concerning this.

It was decided to hold the first meeting of the committee on environmental cooperation in Doha, Qatar on 26-27 Rajab 1405/16-17 April 1985, to discuss the following agenda:

1. Review and discussion of what appeared in the minutes of the meeting of experts on the environment to decide on it.
2. Discussion of the secretariat's report concerning following up on the progress of implementating the work plan prepared in the meeting of experts and adopting the recommendations necessary for the follow-up.

Information Cooperation

Information cooperation among the GCC states had made great progress before the establishment of the GCC, either at the bilateral level between states or at the collective level through conferences of ministers of information in the Gulf states. Nevertheless, responsibility for cooperation multiplied after establishment of the GCC, such that it became necessary for the information agencies to pursue aspects of cooperation with the other political, economic and military agencies, which began to make great strides under the umbrella of the GCC. From here the secretariat strove to carry out the necessary contacts with member states to draw up future plans for the bases of coordination among the information agencies in the GCC states in order to enable the pursuit and support of existing aspects of cooperation and affirmation of what their majesties and highnesses the leaders of the GCC states proclaimed concerning the necessity of achieving coordination, integration and rapprochement among the member states in all fields, realizing their unity and deepening and strengthening the bonds and ties that exist among the people of the Gulf. It

actually started on this path by calling a number of meetings among the officials of the various sectors of the information apparatuses in the Gulf states. The information area recently made much of meetings of various officials of the information sectors in the GCC states, and began to take positive steps toward coordination and integration of information.

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